

Found a Lost Pet?

On any given day, Rochester Animal Services (RAS) has 50-100 cats and dogs in our care. As an open admission public shelter, we rely on appointment-based intake that includes individual assessment and a case management approach for non-emergencies. Here are several ways you can help a lost pet get back to its home without bringing it to the shelter.

Found A Dog?

1. Be Safe

If you are able to, get the dog to a safe and secure area. Be aware of surroundings. Your safety and the safety of others should come first. DO NOT RUN OR CHASE INTO TRAFFIC.

2. Check for identification

Check if the dog is wearing a collar and has an ID tag or a license tag. Sometimes people write phone numbers directly on the collar instead of attaching a tag.

3. Knock on doors

Check with your neighbors or other people in the area. They may know the dog and can help you locate its home.

4. Snap photos

Take shots of the dog, street signs, and area where dog was found.

5. File a Found Pet Report

Call 585-428-7274 or submit report electronically at cityofrochester.gov/foundapet, or visit the shelter to during regular business hours.

6. Check for microchip

Take the dog to a local vet's office or pet store to scan for a microchip. If the dog has a chip, this may be the fastest and best way to find an owner. RAS can help with research if the chip is not registered.

7. Post on social media

Post photos and location on social media sites like Craigslist, Facebook and Nextdoor. Use photo to create posting at lost.petcolove.org.

8. Make and Post Flyers

Hang flyers in heavy traffic areas and public spaces near where the dog was found. Good old fashioned leg work is still the best way to locate an owner.

9. Can you keep and foster the dog?

Take the dog home for safekeeping. Keeping a found pet at home helps keep our population low and prevents the missing pet from being housed in a high-stress environment and exposed to disease. RAS can provide vaccines for found pets if you are willing to take them home with you. Keep the dog separated from children and other pets.

10. If you cannot locate owner and cannot keep...

If you are not able to house the dog safely, you can bring it to the shelter during regular business hours. To make an appointment call 585-428-7274. Our team may also have other options for the pet that don't require coming to the shelter.

Found A Cat?

Most cats you see outdoors are not in need of intervention and should be left where they are. So first determine whether this is a cat in need of immediate attention (sick or injured) or a healthy neighborhood cat out for a stroll.

Signs that a cat is sick or injured include the following:

- How is this cat injured? Is it able to walk on all 4 legs, bleeding, etc.?
- Is the cat wearing a collar?
- Are the cat's eyes clear?
- Does the cat appear underfed?
- Is breathing slow and labored?
- Is the cat hunched up in possible pain?
- Does the coat appear dirty or missing patches of fur?
- Is the cat declawed?

If you believe this is a lost or abandoned cat:

1. Take a photo of the cat. Try for a full-body side view with face, preferably standing so you have a clear image of the cat and its markings. Use the photo for posting on Nextdoor, social media, and at nearby intersections. More cats are reunited as a result of good posters and flyers than as a result of social media, so get those posters up while the cat is still around and visible.
2. Get the cat scanned for a microchip at any vet, animal shelter, any many pet stores. This is a free service & no appointment is necessary. If you're not able to transport the cat, ask animal services or your local rescue community for assistance.
3. If the cat is in danger and urgent action is necessary, bring or lure the cat into your home or garage to keep it safe if you are able to do so safely. Otherwise request assistance from Animal Services. The space should be dark and quiet, a separate room well away from children and other pets. Equip the area with food, water, and litter. Once the danger is gone, return the cat to the location where found.
 - o If not in danger or sick/injured, do not bring the cat indoors; leave him in place, or return the cat to the exact location you picked him up so he may return home on his own. You may provide food/water support.
4. Next, post the found cat alert on Nextdoor.com, PetHarbor.com, HelpingLostPets.com, Pawboost.com, lost.petcolove.org and Craigslist in Pets category and Lost and Found Community section.
5. If unable to contain the cat, use this [template](#) to make a paper cat collar. You can also write a note asking about the cat with your contact info, fold it up and tape the ends to form a collar. Do not give a cat away or offer up for adoption until you have covered the above steps for at least a week, branching out beyond your immediate area, to make sure no one is searching for this cat. You would want the same done if it were your cat. If you see a deceased cat, take a photo and call 428-5990. They will pick up the deceased cat and scan for a microchip in order to notify owners if possible.
6. If you found kittens, please visit [What To Do If You Find Kittens](#)

Found Pet

[Insert Photo]

Today's Date: _____

Finder's Contact Info

Name (optional): _____ Email: _____

Phone (Day & Evening): _____ / _____

Pet's species (Cat, Dog, Hamster, etc.): _____

Pet's sex (M/F): _____

Pet's Color(s): _____

Special Markings: _____

Collar Color: _____

Other Identification: _____

Area Found: _____

Date Found: _____

Distinguishing Lost and Abandoned Cats From Community Cat

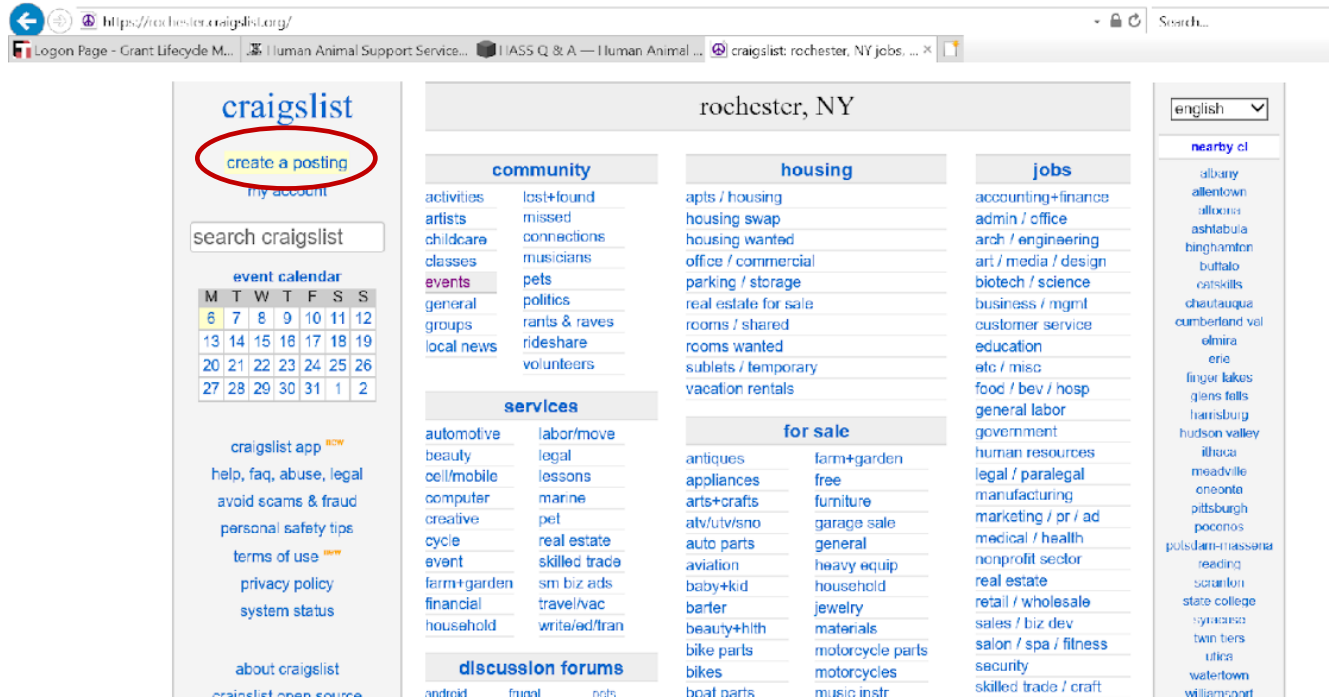
Lost/abandoned cats can also be distinguished from community cats when at least one of the following applies:

- Cat is wearing a collar with ID tag
- Cat has a microchip
- Cat is known to be recently abandoned by a previous owner
- Cat is actively trying to get into a particular home or building
- Cat is declawed
- New to the area where found – has been seen in area where found for 3 weeks or less
- Altered without an ear-tip
- Ravenous appetite *and* unthrifty, disheveled coat, significantly underweight (i.e., Signs of not thriving outdoors).

In cases where at least one of the above applies, the situation warrants additional consideration and extra time spent determining if the cat is lost/abandoned. If lost/abandoned, follow lost pet reunification tactics as outlined for lost dogs on page one of this packet.

How to Post Found Pet on Craigslist

Go to <http://rochester.craigslist.org>



Select [community] and click continue

please limit each posting to a single area and category, once per 48 hours

what type of posting is this: (see [prohibited](#) list before posting.)

- job offered
- gig offered (I'm hiring for a short-term, small or odd job)
- resume / job wanted

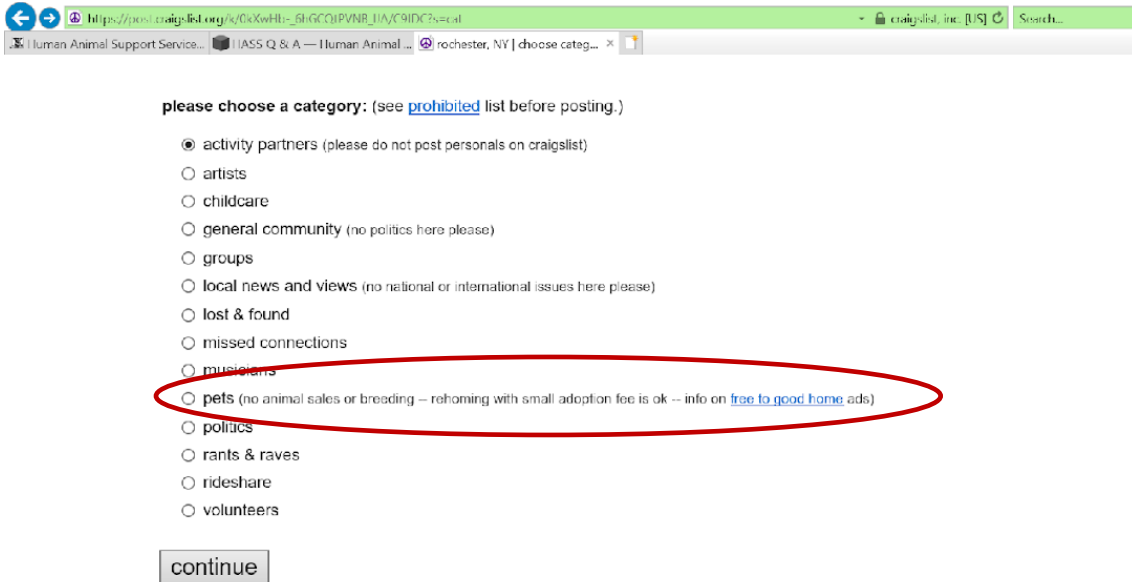
- housing offered
- housing wanted

- for sale by owner
- for sale by dealer
- wanted by owner
- wanted by dealer

- service offered
- community
- event / class

continue

Choose a category: select [pets] and click continue.

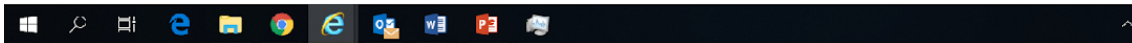


https://post.craigslist.org/0xwHt--9I-GCOiPVNB_1A/C9IDC?next

please choose a category: (see [prohibited](#) list before posting.)

- activity partners (please do not post personals on craigslist)
- artists
- childcare
- general community (no politics here please)
- groups
- local news and views (no national or international issues here please)
- lost & found
- missed connections
- musicians
- pets (no animal sales or breeding -- rehoming with small adoption fee is ok -- info on [free to good home](#) ads)
- politics
- rants & raves
- rideshare
- volunteers

continue



Fill out the following format (Green fields are required). Answer to the best of your ability. An email address is required. You can opt to not have emails sent but options are available to provide your direct phone number and address.

posting title city or neighborhood postal code

description

contact info

email

email privacy options [?]

- CL mail relay (recommended)
- no replies to this email

phone/text

- show my phone number
- phone calls OK
- text/sms OK

phone number extension

contact name

location info

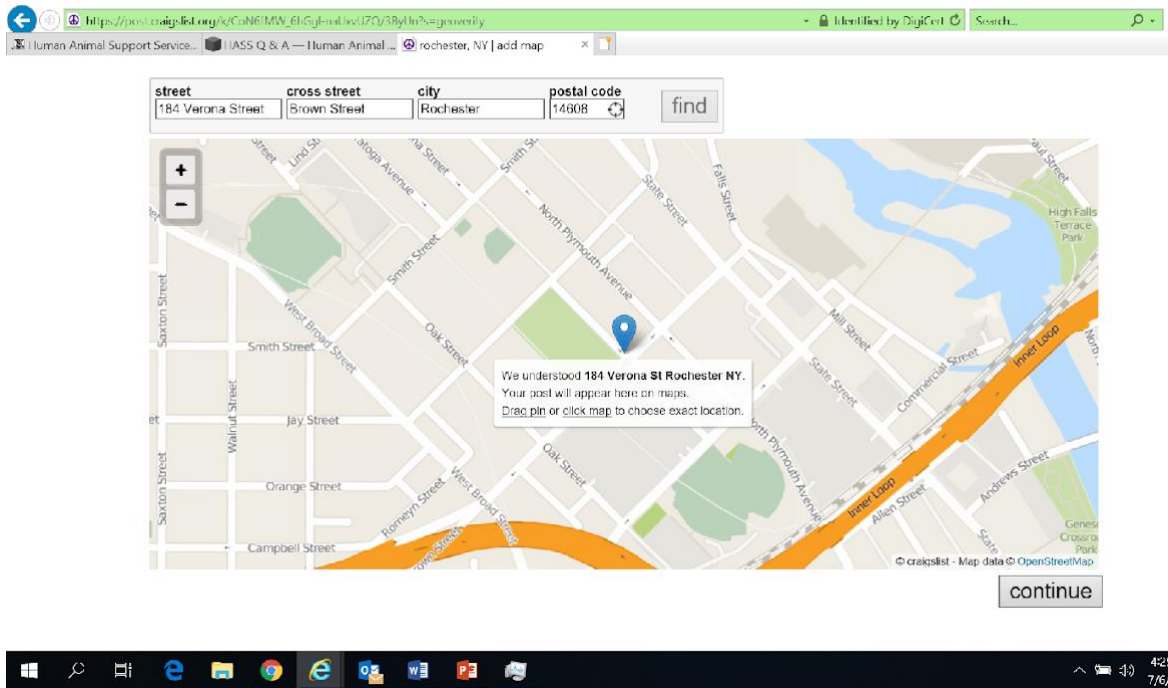
- show my address

street cross street city

ok for others to contact you about other services, products or commercial interests

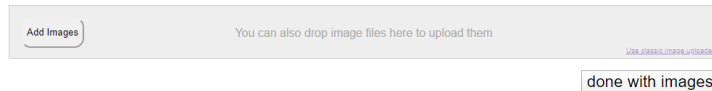
continue

Provide a zip code and press [continue].



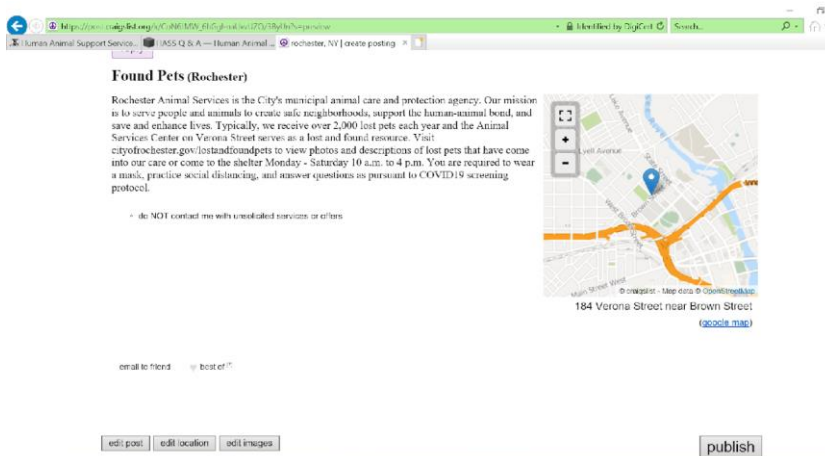
You can add images of the animal you are seeking to rehome. Once completed, select [done with images].

this posting has 0 images, of a maximum 24
upload best image first - it will be featured.



Review your post finalize any information then select [publish]. Once you select [publish] the post will publicly be published on Craigslist.

Note* A craigslist post only last for 45 days.



How to Post Found Pet on Facebook

Post on Lollypop Spotters page

Go to <https://facebook.com/lollypopspotters>



Lollypop Spotters

17K likes · 19K followers

Lollypop Spotters help reunite lost pets with their families!

Message

Liked

...

Posts About Photos Mentions

Details

Page · Pet Service

99 Victor Rd, Fairport, NY, United States,
New York

(585) 223-1330

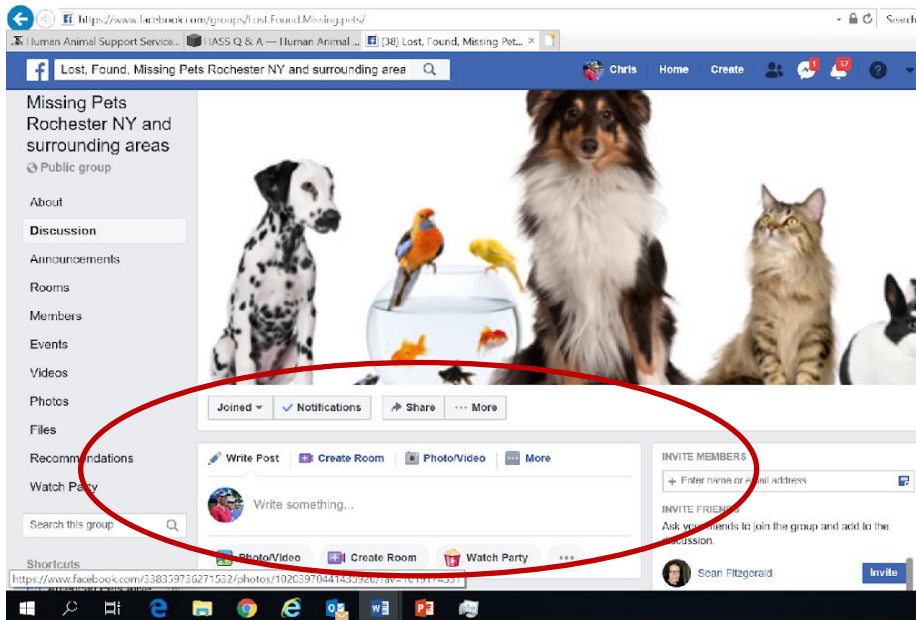
lostandfound@lollypop.org

lollypop.org/lostandfound

Contact Lollypop spotters by phone, email or the website to report a lost or found pet.

Post on Lost, Found, Missing Pets Rochester NY and surrounding areas page

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Lost.Found.Missing.pets/>



Write a post including the description of the found pet and location found. Include your contact information unless you prefer to have communications occur through Facebook and Facebook Messenger. Click Photo/Video to add photos or video of the animal. Once the written post is completed and the photos/videos are uploaded, click Post.

